

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 19, 2005, and May 24, 2005, **CINDY J. SIMS**, age 45, and **JAMES D. CLOVER**, age 39, both of Grand Tower, Illinois, were sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. SIMS and CLOVER had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. SIMS was sentenced to 78 months' imprisonment, 4 years' supervised release, and was fined \$300. CLOVER was sentenced to 121 months' imprisonment, 5 years' supervised release, and was fined \$300.

The violation took place between February 2002, and May 18, 2004, in Grand Tower, Illinois.

Co-defendants JOSHUA T. SMITH, CHARLES E. MORSE, MICHAEL R. CRANE, and AIMEE DANIELLE BYRAM, a/k/a "Danny," have previously been sentenced to 135 months' imprisonment, 63 months' imprisonment, 60 months' imprisonment and 37 months' imprisonment, respectively, for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Co-defendants WILLIAM E. GOLLIHER, JR., HARLEY LIBBERT and MICHAEL L. REED have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendant KENNETH W. DEROSSETT, a/k/a "Spaz," is awaiting jury trial. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Grand Tower Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.